

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /124 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4293

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7584

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: IRAN EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS WITH IRAQ AND SYRIA

REF: TEHRAN 7124

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (ASIA AND AFRICA) SANANDAJI PROVIDED EMBASSY OCTOBER 27 WITH STATUS REPORT ON IRAN'S EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WITH IRAQ AND SYRIA. DIRECTOR OF MFA'S ARAB MIDDLE EAST DIVISION MOHAMMAD PURSARTIP WILL BE LEAVING SOON FOR DAMASCUS AS IRAN'S FIRST AMBASSAD IN SYRIA'S CAPITAL FOR SEVERAL YEARS. SYRIA IS EXPECTED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. IRAN HAS GIVEN ITS AGREEMENT FOR ASSIGNMENT OF MIDHAT IBRAHIM JAMAH AS IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN. JAMAH WAS BAHGDAD'S EVNOY TO KUWAIT THREE YEARS AGO WHEN IRAQI LEADER HARDAN AL-TIKRITI WAS KILLED IN JOMAH'S PRESENCY BY IRAQI GOVERNMENT ASSASSINS. JOMAH WAS OBVIOUSLY INVOLVEDRAND THIS MAKES HIM NOTHING BUT A MURDERER IN SANANDAJI'S VIEW. HOWEVER, IRAN AGREED TO THE ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE LATEST ARAB-ISRAEL WAR, A REFUSAL WOULD HAVE LED TO A PUBLIC ACCUSATION BY IRAQ THAT TEHRAN HAD A PRO-ISRAEL BIAS. SANANDAJI SAID AN IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE ASSIGNED TO BAGHDAD BUT HE WAS UNCERTAIN JUST WHEN THIS WOULD OCCUR.

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3. LINKING IRAN'S EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WITH IRAQ AND SYRIA TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, SANANDAJI EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR IRAN OF THE DEGREE OF UNITY THE ARAB STATES HAD DISPLAYED. HE FEARED THAT A TURNING POINT HAD BEEN REACHED IN THE ARAB-ISRAEL STRUGGLE AND THAT HENCEFORTH IRAN MIGHT HAVE TO FACE ARAB "ARROGANCE".

HELMS

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NNN

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